Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04656 221408Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /076 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTS CALMLY TO FORECASTS OF DELAY

IN EMBARGO VOTE

1. TURKISH PRESS JUNE 22 CARRIES CALM AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD ACCOUNTS OF EXPECTED DELAY IN THE HOUSE VOTE ON THE EMBARGO. IN LINE WITH RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED REPORTING OF RECENT WEEKS ON THIS ISSUE FROM WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENTS, MOST MAJOR NEWSPAPERS PROVIDE FAIRLY FACTUAL REPORTING ON VARIETY OF CONSIDERATIONS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04656 221408Z

APPEAR TO BE PUSHING BACK DATE OF HOUSE VOTE. AT SAME TIME, A NUMBER OF COMMENTATORS AND CORRESPONDENTS SPECULATE THAT ONE FACTOR IN TIMING IS A CONGRESSIONAL DESIRE TO ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE OF ECEVIT VISIT TO MOSCOW BEFORE MAKING DECISION ON THE EMBARGO.

2. "CUMHURIYET" PROMINENTLY FEATURED AN INTERVIEW WITH

DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ BY KOSTA DAPONTE UNDER HEADLINE THAT "THE REAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE US WILL BEGIN AFTER THE EMBARGO". NIMETZ IS QUOTED AS OBSERVING THAT LONG-TERM PROBLEMS SUCH AS A DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WILL PROVE MORE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX THAN LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. WHILE NOTING THAT THE HOUSE VOTE PROBABLY WOULD SLIP INTO JULY AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD LITTLE CONTROL OVER THE CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR, NIMETZ IS QUOTED AS OBSERVING THAT THE CONGRESSMEN WHO ARE LEADING THE EFFORT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO ARE WAITING FOR THE DAY THEY CAN WIN THE VOTE.

- 3. "MILLIYET'S" CORRESPONDENT M. ALI BIRAND WRITES THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CHANGED ITS TACTICS AND NOW IS TRYING TO HAVE A SENATE VOTE FIRST. BIRAND REPORTS AT SOME LENGTH CRITICISM OF REP. FINDLEY AND OTHERS REGARDING ADMINISTRATION TACTICS, BUT BALANCES THESE STATEMENTS WITH THOSE OF AN UNNAMED ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WHO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THE "GREEK LOBBY" HAD DECREASED AND THAT IN THE END THE EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED.
- 4. INFLUENTIAL "MILLIYET" COMMENTATOR ABDI IPEKCI JUNE
 21 SOUNDS A RECURRENT PRESS THEME OF RECENT DAYS IN SPECULATING
 THAT THE TIMING OF THE EMBARGO VOTE MAY HAVE BEEN ARRANGED
 SO THAT CONGRESS COULD SEE HOW FAR ECEVIT GOES IN ESTABLISHING
 WARMER POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. CITING THE
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PAGE 03 ANKARA 04656 221408Z

CONCERN OF "CERTAIN PERSONS" THAT ECEVIT MIGHT SIGN A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WITH THE SOVIET, IPEKCI STATES THAT THE O "POLITICAL DOCUMENT" TO BE SIGNED IN MOSCOW WILL NOT BE A FORMAL TREATY REQUIRING PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION, BUT RATHER A BILATERAL AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO A NUMBER OF THOSE BETWEEN WESTERN STATES AND THE USSR AND CONSISTENT WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACCORD.

5. COMMENT: WHILE TURKISH PATIENCE IS CERTAINLY NOT UNLIMITED, FOR THE TIME BEING MOST TURKS SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND ITS CONGRESSIONAL ALLIES ON THIS ISSUE ARE MAKING A STRONG EFFORT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AND THAT IN THE END THEY ARE LIKELY TO PREVAIL. SPIERS

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Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AMENDMENTS, ARMS EMBARGO

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 22 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA04656
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780260-0838

Format: TEL From: ANKARA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780632/aaaabbqo.tel

Line Count: 107 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 5cacbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 05 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: N/A Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2254794 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: TURKISH PRESS REACTS CALMLY TO FORECASTS OF DELAY IN EMBARGO VOTE

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SOPN, TU, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5cacbf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

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